



**Sunday May 19, 2024
St. James Lutheran Church**

INTRODUCTION

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's vibrant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into
a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed
through the sea
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

ENTRANCE HYMN: "Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove" (LBW 475)

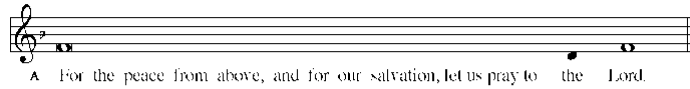
GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE



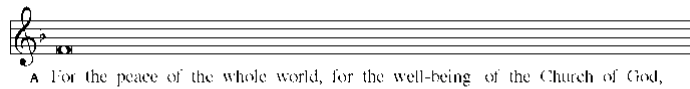
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.




A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



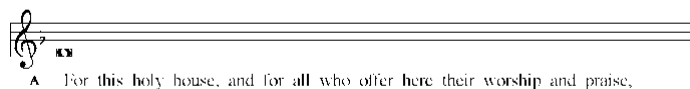
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



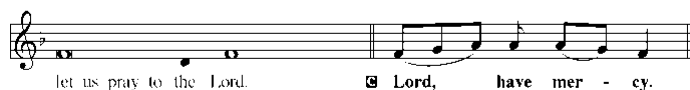
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



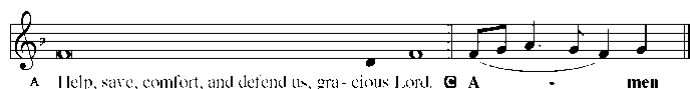
☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



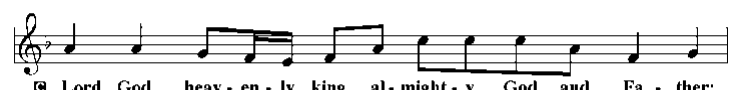
let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



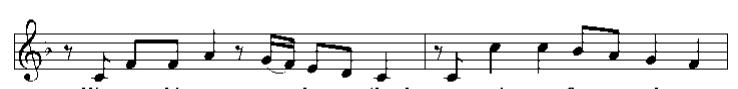
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. ☩ A - men



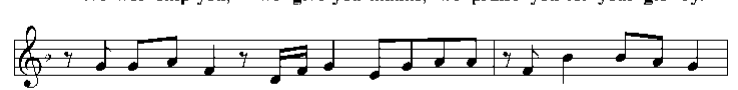
A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



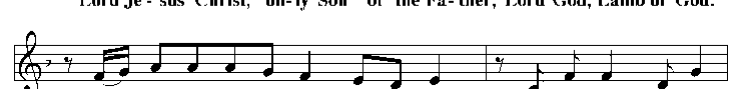
☩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



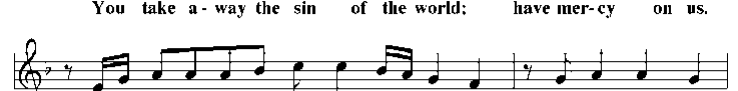
We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



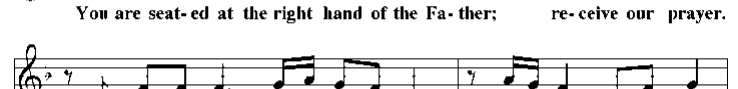
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



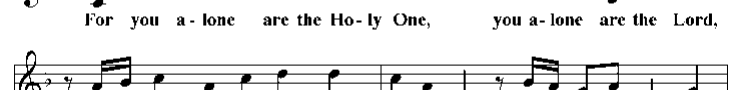
You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



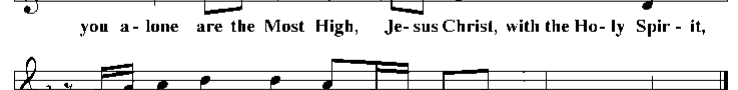
You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. . . .

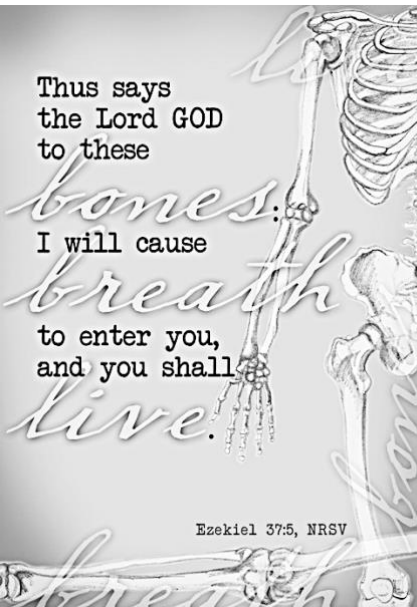
Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING:

The Hebrew word rendered as ruach means “spirit,” “wind,” or “breath.” This reading plays on the different meanings of the word. Just as the dry bones in Ezekiel’s vision are given new life, flesh, and breath (or spirit), so God will give the exiles God’s own spirit and will bring them home to the land of Israel.

Ezekiel 37:1-14



¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath

came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 104:24-34, 35b

²⁴How manifold are your ^l works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full ^l of your creatures.

²⁵**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too man-^l y to number, living things both ^l small and great.**

²⁶There go the ships ^l to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the ^l sport of it.

²⁷**All of them ^l look to you to give them their food ^l in due season.**

²⁸You give it to them; they ^l gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled ^l with good things.

²⁹**When you hide your face, ^l they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return ^l to their dust.**

³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they ^l are created; and so you renew the face ^l of the earth.

³¹**May the glory of the LORD en-^l dure forever;**



O LORD, rejoice in | all your works.

³²You look at the earth | and it trembles;
you touch the mountains | and they smoke.

³³**I will sing to the LORD as long | as I live;**
I will praise my God while I | have my being.

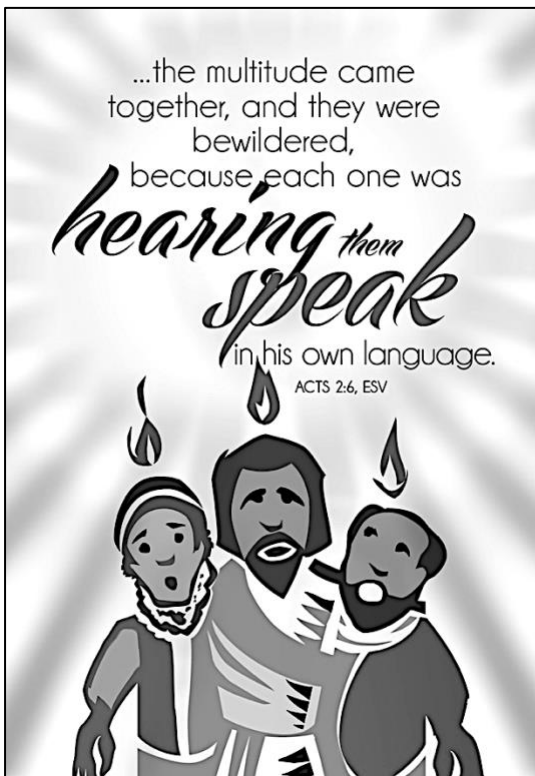
³⁴May these words of | mine please God.
I will rejoice | in the LORD.

^{35b}**Bless the LORD, | O my soul.**
Hal- | lelujah!

Second Reading:

Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community bears witness to God's activity in multiple languages.

Acts 2:1-21



¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' ”

Here ends the reading.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15



While speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as “the Helper” and describes the difference the Spirit will make in their lives and in the world.



[Jesus said,] ²⁶“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{16:4b}“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.

⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON: Rev. Carl Trost

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Loving Spirit” (WOV 683)

APOSTLE’S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith by using the words of the Apostle’s Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church universal, for its ministries, and for the spread of the gospel. Embolden all bishops, pastors, and deacons to be faithful ministers of your word and sacraments. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the earth, our precious home. We give thanks for the diversity of plant and animal life on our planet. Empower us by your Spirit to be wise and faithful stewards of all you have made. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the nations and those who govern. Give those in authority understanding hearts, that they work together to bring justice and peace on earth. Grant all who vote in elections wisdom and discernment. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For those in need around the world: for victims of crimes, for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, for those who are incarcerated. For all who suffer in any way. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For this congregation and its ministries: for those who plan and lead worship, and readers, for all who prepare and clean our worship space. May our worship be pleasing in your sight. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For all who are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and mental illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. We especially pray for Norma, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Inez, Zeby, Claire, Charles, Ellen, Jerry, Bill, Josh, Mike, Melvin, Joe, Charles and Peggy. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.
Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

(Greet each other in the peace of the Lord.)

Anthem: "Spirit Song" Words, music by John Wimber

OFFERING



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
**For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

21 st	Ivan Diehl
25 th	Eleanor Sander
28 th	Kaleb Bartley
30 th	Paul Rohal

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
 The risen Christ is made known to us
 in the breaking of the bread.
 Come and eat at God’s table.

COMMUNION
 The body of Christ, given for you.
 The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING
 The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.

He re-calls his prom- is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
 Shepherding God,
 you have prepared a table before us
 and nourished us with your love.
 Send us forth from this banquet
 to proclaim your goodness
 and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
 our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" (LBW 221)

BLESSING

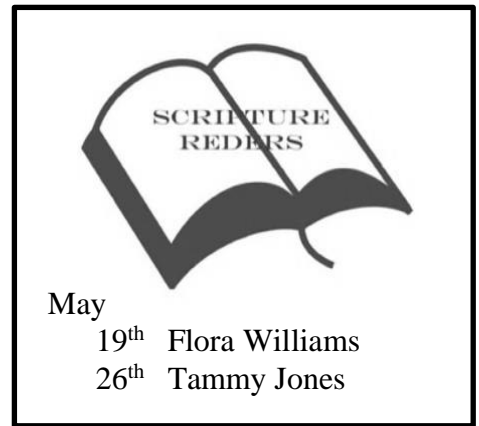
The God of all,
who raised ✝ Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.



Prayer Concerns

Ongoing Need for Prayer

Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser, Claire Viette, Ellen McDonald, Charles McDonald, Zeby (Ellen & Charles' grandson), Inez Johnson (Becky and Debbie's aunt), Jerry Hill and Bill Bayes (friends of Pastor Gordon and Anne), Josh Thornhill (Norma Turak's grandson-in-law), Mike Martin (friend of Phillip Snyder), and Melvin Glass (friend of Ivan).

Prayer Concerns

Joe McCune (friend of Ronnie), Charles Driver (Sam and Lynda's neighbor), Betty Diehl and Peggy Desimore (friend of Norma).

Community Conversations

- May flowers are given by Debbie Snyder and Becky Dick.
- May 21st Quilt Group meets at 1 pm.
- June 2nd Our worship is going outside, weather permitting. Remember your lawn chair.
- Men's Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- The choir will resume practice in the fall.
- The Back Packs Program will start up again in August.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month
 - May—Gene Giltner
- We wish Hannah a blessing for her summer adventure. She will be back this fall.

70th Wedding Anniversary

Kenneth and Joe Price celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary on May 30. This anniversary requires more than just a simple celebration. A "platinum" wedding anniversary represents seven decades of experiences, relationships, wisdom, and adventures in their personal and ministerial lives. They have uniquely touched and shaped the lives of not only their family and friends but of the individuals they met and churches they served along this same path of married life.

Let's shower them with cards mailed to their home address:
12 Woodland Drive
Staunton, VA 24401

Pastor Gordon Putnam
434-760-0263
Grputnam1949@gmail.com
Pastor Carl Trost
Hannah Pingel, Pianist
Sam Diehl and Bambi Straw, Assisting Ministers

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